

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 12 November 1948

25X SUBJECT Current Situation in Albania

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1. The Naval Command: The Commander-in-Chief of the Albanian Navy is Abdi Mati, who holds the rank of Major (sic), and whose headquarters are at Tirana. Two other important naval officers are Captain Bumci, a Port Captain and Ndoc Gjeluci, who holds the rank of Captain, First Class.
2. The latter have succeeded in making their peace with the Communist regime. Others, however, have not been so successful. Port Captain Gjon Nik Vuksani, arrested as a "reactionary", died in prison after being tortured; and two more officers, Ali Pashko Jubani and Pieter Gjoka, are at present confined, in Berat and Durres respectively, on the same charge.
3. The Albanian Navy has no fighting units other than small coastal defense vessels.
4. Coastal Defense: Albanian coastal defense is poor. Small garrisons of 10 to 15 soldiers, armed with small caliber cannon, are stationed at intervals of five or ten miles along the coast. Garrisons communicate by telephone. Personnel of the garrisons are believed demoralized by the Communist terror, and incapable of real resistance in case of attack.
5. The ~~locations of~~ coastal defense stations on the northern Adriatic coast are at the mouth of the following rivers: Vijose; Semani; Karavestaj (?); Selite; Kavapalla (?); Mati; Drin (at Lesh); Bojana; Shenjin and on Cape Rodoni.
6. The following types of vessels are employed for coast guard purposes:
 - a. Three large motorboats, each armed with large caliber machine guns and one cannon.
 - b. One motor-raft, the MUJO ULQUINAQEN, having a speed of ten miles per hour.

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- c. Three or four small boats, each armed with small caliber machine guns.
7. Mined Zone: The coastal waters off Passo Bianco and Punta Palermo, where an English ship was sunk two years ago, are still mined.
8. Military Forces: The Albanian Army, including the police, has a strength at present of about 100,000 men. The 1920 to 1928 military classes are on active duty. About two million Leks per day are spent to support the army.
9. Location of Units: The location of the following units is known:
- 1 Infantry Division - quartered in Tirana in Shkumbini Barracks.
 - 5 Infantry Division - stationed at Gjinokaster.
 - 8 Infantry Division - stationed at Korce.
 - The above divisions are the only ones which have their full strength of three regiments each.
10. Arms and Ammunition Depots:
- A large supply of mines is stored at Tirana in the Shkumbini barracks.
 - In the Elbasan region, a large munitions depot is located 16 kilometers east of Elbasan, on the Librazhd-Pogradec road.
 - In the Durres region, another large depot may be located six kilometers from Durres, towards Sasso Bianco.
 - At Scutari, in the direction of Mt. Garabosh and the Ismajl Osmani barracks, another arms depot is located.
 - Further depots are located at Korce, Gjinokaster, Permet and Vlone.
11. Gasoline Depots:
- At Durres there are two gasoline depots, the first at Porto Romano and the second seven kilometers from the city, on the Kavaja road.
 - At Shkambi Kavajse, an underground depot is located, constructed of reinforced concrete and measuring 500 meters in length.
 - At Tirana, an underground depot is located four kilometers out of town.
 - Other gasoline depots exist at Elbasan, Kucovo, Scutari, Pogradec, Korce, Vlone, Gjinokaster and Berat.
12. Officers' School: The only Albanian officers' school is located in the former Italian engineer troops barracks, in Tirana. This is a general school for all arms and services, and between three and four thousand students are enrolled. All the instructors are Russian, but the director is an Albanian Major, Qazim Kapisysi.
13. Soviet Military Mission: The headquarters of the Soviet Military Mission in Tirana include about one hundred Soviet officers of various ranks. Chief of the mission is Colonel General Sokolovski. Soviet officers are found in all Albanian corps and divisions. The Yugoslav officers formerly attached to divisions and regiments have been replaced by Bulgars.
14. Soviet Secret Police: A Soviet secret police headquarters, staffed by Soviets in civilian clothes, is located on Elbasan Street, about three hundred meters from the United States Legation building.

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15. Soviet Diplomatic Mission: The Soviet diplomatic mission is headed by the Minister, Shuvakin, on whose staff are some fifteen members of the Soviet intelligence services. From this mission instructions are sent out to Albanian cabinet ministers, each of whom has a Soviet "technical adviser" permanently attached to his office.
16. Arrival of Merchant Ships: Soviet merchant ships arrive frequently with cargoes of corn and wheat. After unloading, they leave with cargoes of naphtha, coal, skins, and copper. The Soviet ship, PUSHKIN, arrived at Durres on 25 September 1948 to unload 25,000 quintals of grain, as well as arms and ammunition. After unloading, the ship went to Vlone to pick up coal. On 18 September 1948, a Rumanian ship, the TRANSYLVANIA, arrived with a cargo of 500 tons of newsprint. A Bulgarian ship, the DOBRUDJA, also arrived recently with a mixed cargo which included foodstuffs.
17. Navigation on Inland Waterways: Traffic on Lake Scutari and the Bojana River, both of which are located between Yugoslavia and Albania, has stopped since the Tito-Cominform break. The inhabitants on the Albanian side of the Bojana, however, still transport wood and other products along their bank in small row-boats.
18. Railroads: The Durres-Pequin railway is already in operation, having received rolling stock from Yugoslavia while Albanian-Yugoslav relations were still good. The Durres-Tirana railroad still lacks rails, although the roadbed has been completed. Rolling stock for it is expected to come from Rumania.
19. Two large repair shops exist in Tirana, one employing 200 men for manufacturing weapons, and the other, employing 150 men, for repairing vehicles. A shop in Durres, employing about 70 men, retreads tires and is believed to have enough material on hand for retreading 2,000 units.
20. Resistance: Nationalist resistance groups control a number of regions of Albania in defiance of the Communist central government. In the Mirdite, a group of about 100 men, led by a cousin of Gjon Markagjoni, continues its resistance, and two months ago was able to launch an attack against government forces which resulted in a number of deaths among government troops as well as considerable material damage.
21. The Puke-Kukes zone is controlled by a group led by Ndoc Mirakaj, son of Kol Mirakaj (the former secretary of the Albanian Fascist Party). Three months ago, at Qafe e Malit, this group set fire to three trucks loaded with supplies belonging to the central government.
22. In the Malcijs e Medhe, above Shkoder, one Nik Sokoli leads a band which consists of only twelve men, although it would be supported by all the inhabitants of the district if they could obtain arms and ammunition.
23. Concentration Camps: About a thousand soldiers, organized into a disciplinary battalion, are imprisoned in a concentration camp about six kilometers from Tirana where they are used to perform forced labor. Another thousand men, organized into a similar battalion, are located at the concentration camp of Crrik (sic), near Elbasan. Similar camps also exist for civilians.
24. Albanian Refugees in Yugoslavia: The Hoxha regime has taken the most stringent action against Albanian Communists who have sided with the Cominform since its rift with Marshal Tito, and approximately three thousand members of the Albanian Communist Party have been arrested as a consequence. Many pro-Tito Albanians have, however, taken refuge in Yugoslavia, among them Nik Gjeloshi Gjoka, a tribal chief of the Shkoder region, who took with him thirty-three men. Beg Ulkini, a former regent of Albania, is reported to be in Belgrade.

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